SEVEN TRANSFERS FROM EPISCIA SPECIES IN CULTIVATION (GESNERIACEAE)

by Hans Wiehler
University of Miami, Florida

Episcia Martius, as presently constituted, is another genus of the neotropical Gesneriaceae in need of reconstruction because it contains several diverse elements which blur generic limits within the tribe Episcieae Endlicher. In a later, complete treatment of the taxa involved it will be proposed that the genus Episcia should be restricted to species with stolons. Eight such species are presently known.

The external morphology and the results of hybridization experiments indicate that the section Skiophila (Hanst.) Benth. of Episcia will have to be united with the genus Nautilocalyx Lind. ex Hanst.. The type species of this section, E. melittifolia (L.) Mart., forms partially fertile hybrids with Nautilocalyx villosus (Kunth & Bouché) Sprague, and none with other species of Episcia sensu stricto. (I made this cross at Cornell University in 1967; voucher specimens, also of the reciprocal cross, are deposited at BH, Wiehler 6801, 6802; hybrid pollen stainability 73%.) The genus Nautilocalyx, a group of terrestrial herbs with sappy stems, contains in my present estimate over 45 species.

The section Paradrymonia (Hanst.) Lwbg. forms another quite natural unit, rather distinct in the tribe Episcieae. Most of the species have a rosette-shaped habit, some are vining like Drymonia Mart., all have long and lanceolate leaves. As one of the most foreign elements within Episcia, this group needs to be given again its generic status. I have so far encountered 29 species in herbaria and in field work (many of them undescribed), and I am presently observing 10 species under greenhouse conditions. - This transfer deals only with species now in cultivation; several of them I collected recently in Panama and Venezuela.

Genus Nautilocalyx Lind. ex Hanst., Linnaea 26:207, 180-181 (1854)

1. Nautilocalyx melittifolius (L.) Wiehler, comb. nov.
   Basionym: Besleria melittifolia L., Sp. Pl. 619 (1753)
   For the extensive synonomy see Leeuwenberg (1958, p.408), and Morton (1966, p.70)
2. Nautilocalyx membranaceus (Morton) Wiehler, comb. nov.
   Basionym: Episcia membranacea Morton, Acta Bot. Venez. 1(2): 72 (1966)

3. Nautilocalyx porphyrotrichus (Lwbg.) Wiehler, comb. nov.
   Basionym: Episcia porphyrotricha Lwbg., Acta Bot. Neerl. 7: 331 (1958)

Genus Paradrymonia Hanst., Linnaea 26:207, 180 (1854)

4. Paradrymonia ciliosa (Mart.) Wiehler, comb. nov.
   Basionym: Hypocyrta ciliosa Mart., Nov. Gen. et Sp. Pl. 3:53 (1829)
   Synonyms: Episcia ciliosa (Mart.) Hanst., in Martius, Fl. Bras. 8(1):403 (1864); Columnea ciliosa (Mart.) Kuntze, Rev. Gen. 2:472 (1891)
   Centrosolenia glabra Benth., Bot. Mag. 76:t.4552 (1850); Paradrymonia glabra (Benth.) Hanst., Linnaea 26:207 (1854; = type sp. of Paradrymonia); Episcia glabra (Benth.) Hanst., Linnaea 34:349 (1865)

5. Paradrymonia decurrens (Morton) Wiehler, comb. nov.
   Basionym: Centrosolenia decurrens Morton, Fieldiana, Bot. 18(3-4):1158 (1938)
   Synonym: Episcia decurrens (Morton) Lwbg., Acta Bot. Neerl. 8:53 (1959)

6. Paradrymonia lineata (Morton) Wiehler, comb. nov.
   Basionym: Centrosolenia lineata Morton, Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 29:41 (1942)
   Synonym: Episcia lineata (Morton) Lwbg., Acta Bot. Neerl. 8:53 (1959)

7. Paradrymonia lurida (Morton & Raymond) Wiehler, comb. nov.
   Basionym: Episcia lurida Morton & Raymond, Baileya 18(1):9 (1971)

References

Leeuwenberg, A.J.M. 1958. The Gesneriaceae of Guiana. Acta Bot. Neerl. 7:291-444

Morton, C.V. 1966. Gesneriaceae. Acta Bot. Venez. 1(2):65-74